

Local Anaesthetic

Due to a shortage in Adrenacaine, we have had to source an alternative supply of local anaesthetic. If you require any for dehorning or disbudding please get in contact.

TB Testing

We are extremely busy with TB testing at the moment, therefore we would appreciate 2 weeks notice for any pre-movement tests required.

Milksure Course

The MilkSure initiative is something you may or may not have heard of yet. It has been initiated by Dairy UK and developed in conjunction with The British Cattle Veterinary Association, with the aim to ensure that the production of milk is free of veterinary medicine residues. MilkSure is an accredited training course for British dairy farmers and their employees, delivered by us to you. The course is split into 3 parts: part 1 - technical issues, including why tank failures occur, the different tests available to check for residue levels, how residue levels are set (which can be carried out in the office or round the kitchen table), part 2 - practical issues (this section must be done on farm) and part 3, which is the on-line test, to check understanding after completing parts 1 and 2. Don't worry about the test as this can be done with the vet present to help you along.

We have a course coming up on Thurs 4th April and we will be arranging another at a later date. Please contact the office if you are interested then we can find a convenient date. Thanks

Spring Vaccines

Spring finally feels like its here and hopefully turnout will appear on the horizon shortly! Please place your orders for your spring vaccines (BVD, Lepto, IBR and Huskvac) ASAP to ensure that you are ready for turnout.

See right for our super spring offer.



Westmorland Veterinary Group
Spring Offer
5% OFF all BVD vaccine when ordered with Spirovac



Please contact the surgery for further information
Valid for orders placed between February and the end of April



Kendal Surgery
Monday to Friday 8.30am—7.00pm
Saturday 8.30am-12noon
Tel:01539 722692

Kirkby Lonsdale Surgery
Monday & Thursday 8.30am-7.00pm
Tuesday 8.30am-6.00pm
Wednesday & Friday 8.30am-5.00pm
Saturday 8.30am-12 noon
Tel:015242 71221

www.westmorland-vets.co.uk



Well if the amount of calvings that we are attending is any indication, then everyone is in the thick of things, too! Thankfully there doesn't seem to be many cases of sheep abortions in evidence, no doubt because the majority of problems are being abated by vaccination against Enzootic abortion and toxoplasmosis. Ring-womb cases seem to be prevalent, though- and can be difficult for folks to pick up if they've not seen many before.

Typically it is a ewe which looks like she has been lambing for a few hours, with nothing to show for it. Examination of these cases shows that the cervix is sometimes only dilated by a few centimetres. Often all the membranes are still intact inside the ewe, but sometimes a water bag or membranes may be seen hanging from behind her. If you're not sure if it is a true case of ring-womb, or rather a protracted first stage of labour, check again in one or two hours. If there is a putrid discharge then that confirms the diagnosis and the outlook for the sheep is poor. If, after an hour or two, she is still in the same position with a cervix only one or two centimetres dilated, then it probably is a case of ring-womb. Many of these cervixes will dilate under mild to moderate digital pressure, but also many don't. It's very easy to go in with too much pressure and split the cervix through into the abdominal cavity- which is game over for the sheep. If you're not sure, or need help- give us a call. We see a lot of these cases and deal with everyone's worst lambings. We will commonly administer an epidural which means that we can try a controlled dilation without putting the sheep through distress, as dilation can be a very painful procedure. No-one knows what really causes these ring-womb cases, there is evidence that too many oestrogenic plants such as clover may predispose, and that they may also be a symptom of energy deficiency such as in twin-lamb and some instances of vaginal prolapse. If the cervix is unaffected after 5 or 10 minutes, and the lambs look in a healthy state then we'll usually progress straight on to a caesarean section of the ewe. Happy lambing!

Richard Knight

E Coli Mastitis

E coli is one of the most prevalent environmental causes of mastitis and is most commonly seen in housed cows when conditions are warm and humid. E coli infection of a quarter does not always cause clinical mastitis; many cases will be subclinical and may only be detectable by raised somatic cell counts. In mild cases, a few flaky clots may be the only noticeable change. Typical signs of E coli mastitis include a hard, hot quarter and a watery discharge.

Some cows develop toxic E coli mastitis. This condition results when the E coli bacteria have died and release an endotoxin which is derived from their cell wall. It is the endotoxin, and the inflammatory response that this causes, which has such dramatic effects on the cow's circulatory system and causes it to present with weakness/recumbency, sunken eyes, dark red mucous membranes and cold extremities. Below is a table with the four cornerstones of E coli treatment highlighted, as you will note antibiotics are not included, this is because their use is questionable considering the bacteria are already dead when the cow is showing signs of toxic mastitis.

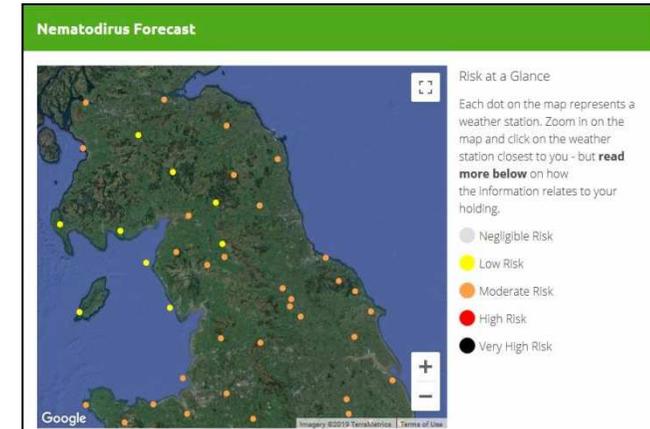
Treatment

<u>Veterinary interventions</u>	<u>Supportive and ongoing care</u>
<p>Fluid therapy Fluid is administered into the vein in order to help support the cow's circulatory system. This is usually followed by administration of oral fluids via stomach tube.</p> <p>Anti-inflammatory drugs A non-steroidal (Metacam or Ketofen) is given ideally intravenously to reduce the production of inflammatory mediators in response to the release of endotoxin and thereby limit the severity of disease.</p>	<p>Nursing The importance of good nursing for any sick cow <u>cannot</u> be underestimated. Clean, warm, dry and comfortable conditions along with a readily available and accessible supply of fresh forage and water is essential for recovery.</p> <p>Stripping Regular stripping of the affected quarter(s) is <u>fundamental</u> in the treatment of toxic mastitis cases. The removal of milk, and thereby all the endotoxin and inflammatory mediators it contains, before it reaches the circulation reduces the severity of the toxic shock syndrome seen. Some authors suggest stripping every two hours for the first day but even stripping four times a day (at milking times, once in between and at last checks) will be of significant benefit.</p>

Bethany Collins

Sheep News

This has been a very positive lambing season so far with ewes in better than normal condition and good, strong lambs. We have had a few more caesareans than normal but much less twin lamb and weakly lambs so there is always a balance. Ewes in good condition have plenty of colostrum so we are seeing less problems with watery mouth etc. **#colostrumisgold**. If you are seeing watery mouth, APHA are offering a free testing service for one lamb with watery mouth from each farm. The aim is to see what the antibiotic resistance pattern is like on individual farms to help with prevention but also to get an idea of resistance across the UK.



It's also great weather for lambs growing outside. However for those of you with older lambs on the ground beware, Nematodirus may hit earlier than usual. The Nematodirus map on the SCOPS website :-

<https://www.scops.org.uk/forecasts/nematodirus-forecast/> suggests that the hatch is expected in 7-10 days if the warm weather continues. Which lambs are at risk?

- Lambs grazing fields grazed by young lambs last year
- Lambs 6-12 weeks old

Unless you know you have Nematodirus resistance to white wormers they are the treatment of choice. It is challenging to monitor infection using faecal egg counts as disease can happen before there are any eggs in the faeces. However, a combination of coccidiosis and Nematodirus is deadly so monitoring cocci levels in faeces is useful.

For those of you unlucky to have had abortion this year or if you had disappointing barren rates, there is subsidised testing available for both toxoplasma and enzootic abortion. Blood sampling 6 barren or aborted ewes will help us prevent the same problems next year. If you want to talk about any of these issues just speak to one of the farm vets.

Judith Lee